

THE WILMINGTON POST.

W. P. CANADAY, Proprietor.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 31, 1883

JUDGE BLACK is gone. To say of him, in the words of the foremost man of all this world in the realm of thought; in words which no use can make common and no abuse despoil of their power, that "he was the noblest Roman of them all," is peculiarly appropriate of one who made Shakespeare his master, companion and guide, and who drew from the lofty associations of language and imagery as noble, pure and unadorned as the dregs of base tongues, as his life was simple, unadorned and based on the antique mould of the great of the past, whom the great poet made greater in interpreting. No sentence of this length would have suited the taste of him of whom it is spoken, which preferred the terse, laconic and unadorned; dealing in grand, massive, granite words, which he hurled like the mighty stones wielded by gods and heroes in the battles of mythology. But it is not our gift to condense and crystallize. We must write as we can, and leave that work to such as him we now deplore. Differing from Judge Black as completely, in politics, as it is possible for men to disagree, we hesitate not to accord him the meed of praise due to so few of his late confederates, that of being a sincere and honest man. His sincerity and earnestness of character contributed no little to lay the foundations of his greatness. "Man has no majesty like earnestness," says the poet of St. Stephen's of the oratory of Plunkett. The same was true of the life of Black. Though the greatest of American forensic speakers, he made no claims to originality, but framing his sentences from the Bible, Shakespeare and Milton, he uttered the loftiest and most soul-stirring which have electrified courts and senates since the days of Webster. Of this great, brave, simple, intolerant and misguided man we can but say that take him for all and all, a century will pass before again in the tides of time we shall behold his equal.

GOV. HOLDEN'S CARD.

Following the charitable, if not judicious example, of the press of the state generally, we shall forbear any extended comment on the latest somewhat unusual but his promised explanation in vouchsafed us. We do not know, indeed, that we are safe or accurate in using the word "promised," for it seems to be a doubtful matter, resolvable by certain contingencies, as to whether or not we shall be conceding indulgence in any explanation or not. It has occurred to us that this veteran intriguer is probably withholding his "reasons" for this change until the bourgeois press shall kindly furnish him with one, or until he has extracted the same. After this has been accomplished and he has drawn the fire of his anticipated adversaries, perhaps he will choose from the map of suggestions at hand and adopt for his own such "reasons" as will most effectually elude the charges made against him and most gratify those whose good will he now seeks to conciliate. We would therefore, counsel our friends of the press to make no comments. Drive him to select his own battle grounds. If he can afford to be silent, so can we. The burthen is upon him who has denounced and battled for years with a party, and suffered disgrace and ruin at its hands, to show how it comports with honesty and honor that he should make its leading organ the instrument of announcing his desertion of those who raised him to the power and distinction which he forfeited, and consoled and pitied him in his decline. His card shows his eagerness to speak to the people, and we have no very patiently wait for him. We have no need to begin the attack and it would be almost cowardly to do so. He is down and dead, and like Brutus, we would "be sacrificers, but not butchers."

"To cut the head off, and then hack the limbs with death, and envy afterwards."

GENEROUS.

"We would be highly pleased to see Butler Governor of Massachusetts as often as he can be elected, but when it comes to the presidency, we are 'agin' him."—*Amesbury News.*

The above lofty and elegantly phrased sentiment is about a fair exponent of the feeling which prevails among the class for whom it was mainly intended. Gen. Butler, the devil, or "any other man," is good enough for the purpose of beating the Massachusetts Democrats, as the North Carolina Democrats are not to share in the disasters of his evil rule. A generous sentiment, truly, and one which the Democrats of the Bay State might remember when next called upon in a national election to rid "the down-trodden south" of the horrors of "negro supremacy and a centralized despotism," but for the fact that the paper propagating it is in all probability not known to exist by a single citizen of that commonwealth. We would commend it, however, to the citizens of western North Carolina, when instructed by this journal, as they doubtless will be, in next year's campaign, in the lofty patriotism ex-

pected of them in relation to county government. When our western friends are then asked by the *Roanoke News* to surrender the privilege of local self rule, to save the "negro ridden east" from colored domination, let them not forget to recall to its attention this instance of its own selfish indifference to the welfare of its political allies in an other state.

ONE GUESS.

The daily *Journal Observer* of Charlotte, under the head of "a significant withdrawal," hazards a surmise as to Gov. Holden's latest change which may be a shrewd approximation of the truth. After calling attention to his having held for some time the lucrative position of postmaster at Raleigh, it refers to his displacement in favor of Mr. Nichols, and remarks that "this of course, was calculated to dampen his ardor." Very true. Few things more so, and without departing from our intention to not give Mr. Holden grounds for attacking others when it is his business to defend himself, we submit this suggestion to our readers as one will deserving their consideration—especially at this time when a general turn out of "the rascals" might again turn in such displaced officials as our postmaster governor.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

The *Asheville News* of August 15th, in a leading editorial of great ability, and no less ingenuity, brings forward the names of Hawley and Lincoln as our next candidates for president and vice-president respectively. The editor adroitly and briefly does away with Arthur and Blaine by announcing, from some source of information as authoritative as it is mysterious, that the former would in no event consent to succeed himself, while the latter goes by the board for the sole and sufficient reason that he is too great to be nominal president, and must resign himself to the fate of great men, of being president as to the work of the office, while smaller ones reap the honors and emoluments. A sad warning to great men, which we shall not fail to heed.—The great Sherman, too, despite his distinguished connection with the finances and tariff of the country, would, we suppose, go the same road for the same reason. Well, we might "go further and do worse" than to accept the suggestion of our contemporary. We are not making presidents just now, though when we get leisure for that business we will let our friend know. For the present we forbear to blight or brighten the prospects of these gentlemen, and merely say what we have to "give the news" and let our readers see what is thought by others.

Has the British Lion Worn Out His Paws?

BY ALBERT S. HOLLES.

Our Free Trade brethren say he has. These most worthy may have been, he is now gentle and lamb-like; that even the weakest nation is safe in his sight, for, say they, is not his motto: "Peace, good will among nations?"

Our purpose is to examine the condition of his paws. Their sharpness was well known in the American colonial days. At that time the colonies were regarded simply with the view of enriching the English shipper, merchant and manufacturer. The English government forbade them to make their own wares. A keen watch was kept over them to prevent competition on their part with the artisans of England. The governors of the different colonies were directed to make a careful report to the home government of the condition of the colonial manufactures in order that they might be destroyed. Iron foundries and slitting mills were discovered, and they were speedily suppressed. The manufacture of far hats was discovered, and accordingly this industry was restricted so closely that hats could not be exported even to the next colony from the one in which they were made, and the makers were allowed only two apprentices at a time. Wool and flax manufactures were suppressed by stringent provisions. American factories were declared nuisances. Great Britain even forbade the printing of the Bible in America. One of the greatest of English statesmen, the elder Pitt, expressed his opinion on this subject in Parliament which has been often repeated: "The colonies ought not to be permitted to make even a hob-nail." This opinion, as Pitt well knew, was held not by him alone, but by the merchants, shippers and manufacturers. The hob-nail policy was regarded the correct one for England to enforce, whatever might be the result to the colonies.

But the American colonists were not the first people toward whom English rulers, inspired by English merchants and manufacturers, had shown the depths of their heartlessness and rapacity. Ireland had been compelled to drink a still more bitter cup. After the Cromwellian war had ended in the middle of the seventeenth century, the Irish desired to cultivate their lands in peace. At that time there were the principal sources of Irish wealth. The raising of cattle was the most profitable branch of industry, large numbers of which were exported to England. But

ere long the English landholder became alarmed. He feared the results of Irish competition. Accordingly he took steps to prevent it. What those steps were shall briefly relate. They are described by Lecky in his "History of England in the Eighteenth Century." We shall reproduce them mainly in his own words, so that no one can accuse us of distorting this chapter of English history. For surely no one will question either the honesty, ability or impartiality of this historian.

What the English landholder feared was that the Irish rivalry in the cattle market would lower English rents. The remedy he desired was as simple as it was effective. In 1665 and 1689 laws were enacted which absolutely prohibited the importation into England of Irish cattle, sheep, swine, and even of beef, pork, bacon and mutton; and even of butter and cheese. "In this manner," adds Lecky, "the chief source of Irish prosperity was annihilated at a single blow." At that time the Irish had a few sheep flocks, and there were slight beginnings of a colonial trade. The English shippers did not look with any favor on those few Irish ships that were occasionally seen in foreign ports. Accordingly laws were enacted to protect the English shipper. With a very few specified exceptions no European articles, it was declared, could be imported into the English colonies unless they came from England, in ships built there and manned by English sailors. Nor could any articles save a very few be brought from the colonies to Europe unless they were first unladen in England. Through fear that these regulations might not utterly destroy Irish shipping, in 1696 another act was passed which declared that no goods of any kind could be imported directly from the colonies to Ireland. "In this manner," says Lecky, "the natural course of Irish commerce was utterly checked. Her shipping interest was annihilated, and Swift hardly exaggerated when he said: 'The convenience of ports and harbors, which nature bestowed so liberally on this kingdom, is no more use to us than a beautiful prospect to a man shut up in a dungeon.'"

We now come to the third act of England in repressing Irish industries. Forbidden to export cattle to England and to navigate the sea, the Irish turned their land into sheep-walks, and began to manufacture woollen goods in 1636 Strafford, one of the English ministers, noticed that there were some small beginnings of a clothing trade in Ireland, and he promised to discourage it to the utmost lest it should interfere with the woolen manufacture in England. Lecky says that if it had been an object of statesmanship to make Ireland a happy country, to mitigate the abject and heart-rending poverty of its people, and to develop among them habits of order, civilization and loyalty, the encouragement of this industrial tendency was of the utmost moment. England was bent on the destruction of this industry. 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